General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/61/387)*]

61/53. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling further its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 59/59 of 3 December 2004,

Welcoming with appreciation the continuing cooperation among countries in the region of South-Eastern Europe on issues related to security, economy, trade, transport, energy, cross-border cooperation, human rights and justice and home affairs,

Welcoming the Republic of Montenegro as the 192nd State Member of the United Nations,

Reiterating the importance of the South-East European Cooperation Process for further enhancing regional cooperation and stability, which constitutes one of the main elements of the Stabilization and Association Process, and welcoming the positive results of the South-East European Cooperation Process summit meeting, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 4 May 2006,

Recalling the conclusions reached at the Summit of the European Council, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 19 and 20 June 2003, the decisions of the European Council on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnerships with all countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and the outcome of the meeting held in Salzburg, Austria, of Ministers for Foreign Affairs

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

on the European Union Stabilization and Association Process, confirming that the future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union,

Noting the progress made by the countries of the region, including those of the Stabilization and Association Process, in fulfilling the criteria for membership in the European Union and, in this context, the start of the accession negotiations of Croatia and Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia becoming a candidate country for membership in the European Union, the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Albania and the opening of the negotiations for a stabilization and association agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as resuming stabilization and association agreement negotiations with Serbia, pending full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia,

Stressing the role and responsibility of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its Kosovo Force for further promotion of stability in the region, and noting the Council of the European Union's joint action establishing a European Union planning team,

Reaffirming the validity of the Agreement for the delineation of the borderline between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, signed in Skopje on 23 February 2001,[1] and encouraging the parties to the Agreement and inviting all the parties involved in the process of settlement of the future status of Kosovo to respect the Agreement, to cooperate fully and to prepare for its timely implementation,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of strengthening regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, demining, disarmament and confidence-building measures and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and noting that, in spite of ongoing efforts, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects persists in some parts of the region,

Reaffirming its support for all regional initiatives on combating the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, including the activities undertaken at the national level for their collection and destruction,

Mindful of the importance of national, regional and international activities aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and the observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe,

Reaffirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and the appropriate organs of the United Nations to respect and support all the principles of the Charter and the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and through further development of regional arrangements, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to

[1] A/56/60-S/2001/234, annex.

prevent conflicts in South-Eastern Europe, which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

3. *Acknowledges* the positive results achieved so far by the countries of the region, urges them to invest further efforts in consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, the rule of law, cooperation and economic development and for the promotion of good-neighbourliness and the observance of human rights, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe, and recognizes the role of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in successfully promoting regional disarmament;

4. *Supports* the countries of the region in their determination to gradually take over ownership and responsibility for regional cooperation by a phased c tion of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe into a more regionally owned, streamlined and effective regional cooperation framework as set out at the Stability Pact's Regional Table meeting on 30 May 2006 in Belgrade;

5. *Stresses* that every effort should be made to achieve a negotiated settlement in line with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and the contact group guiding principles; emphasizes the importance of the implementation of the standards for Kosovo; and fully supports the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and his team on the Kosovo status talks;

6. *Rejects* the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, and stresses that only peaceful political solutions can assure a stable and democratic future for South-Eastern Europe;

7. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, and calls upon all States to resolve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter;

8. *Urges* the strengthening of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe on the basis of respect for international law and agreements, in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts of the international community, and in particular those of the European Union, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and other contributors, as well as of the South-East European Cooperation Process as an authentic voice of the region, in promoting the long-term process of democratic and economic development of the region;

10. *Calls upon* all States to intensify cooperation with and render all necessary assistance to the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 to bring all at-large indictees to surrender to the Tribunal in line with Security Council resolutions 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003 and 1534 (2004) of 26 March 2004;

11. *Stresses* the importance of enhanced regional cooperation for the development of the South-Eastern European States in the priority areas of infrastructure, transport, trade, energy and environment, as well as in other areas of common interest, and welcomes the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Council and the negotiations for the simultaneous enlargement and amendment of the Central European Free Trade Agreement;

12. *Also stresses* that the further rapprochement of the South-Eastern European States with the Euro-Atlantic institutions will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as good-neighbourly relations among the States;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuous regional efforts and intensified dialogue in South-Eastern Europe aimed at arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures, as well as strengthening cooperation and undertaking appropriate measures at the national, subregional and regional levels against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to prevent all acts of terrorism;

14. *Recognizes* the seriousness of the problem of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war in some parts of South-Eastern Europe, welcomes in this context the efforts of the countries in the region and of the international community in support of mine action, and encourages States to join and support these efforts;

15. *Urges* all States to take effective measures against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to help programmes and projects aimed at the collection and safe destruction of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons, and stresses the importance of closer cooperation among States, inter alia, in crime prevention, combating terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organized crime and corruption, drug trafficking and money-laundering;

16. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".

67th plenary meeting
6 December 2006